



September 3, 2009

The Lafayette NAACP announced today that they would be hosting an Open Community Meeting regarding an incident that occurred at a downtown bar on August 23rd, 2009. The Lafayette Police Department was invited to attend the Open Community Meeting.

There will be no representative of the Lafayette Police Department in attendance at the Open Community Meeting. The LPD has a strong reputation of involvement with the community and is accountable to the community for any and all actions of the department and it's employees. This fact is demonstrated on a daily basis through our interaction with various community groups, local media and the citizens of Lafayette. In instances where the department has investigated allegations of wrongdoing in the past and there was a finding of misconduct, the department has been open, honest and forthcoming with those facts. The Department will continue these practices and will maintain that vital relationship with our community.

The incident referred to by the NAACP involves the arrest and now criminal proceedings against an individual. That individual has rights and we will honor those rights. There are rules of law that regulate what the police can publicly discuss on a matter pending in a criminal court. The Lafayette Police Department will abide by those rules.

The Lafayette Police Department has not received a complaint of misconduct or other wrongdoing regarding the actions of any officer in this incident. If a complaint is received, the matter will be investigated. If there is a finding of misconduct or other wrongdoing, the LPD will take the appropriate course of action.

The LPD relies on a strong relationship with the citizens we serve in order to effectively provide police services. We will continue to maintain the public trust through the established processes within the department. We will continue to work with concerned citizens and groups within our community, but we cannot participate in what appears to be an attempt to try a criminal case in the public forum.

Deputy Chief David Payne
Lafayette Police Department